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Vol. 13, No. 2

The Iguana



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Aerial angels give aid to quake-stricken Salvadorans

By SPC Jeremy Heckler
Iguana Editor

ILOPANGO AIR BASE, El Salvador - Salvadoran Army SGT. Wilfredo Dulces Ramirez and CPL Aludes Ramirez Dulces spent three days wondering whether their loved ones in Comasagua were still living. It was difficult to concentrate on their duties at this air base when life hung in the balance.

Roads leading into the village were covered in a landslide. Relief efforts from Joint Task Force-Bravo led the way in helping those soldiers find their way home when they entered Comasagua on a supply mission.

The Task Force responded to relief and assessment requests made after an earthquake — registering 7.6 on the Richter scale — rumbled off the west coast of El Salvador, some 65 miles southwest of San Miguel. Forty-five members of the Task Force arrived at midday Jan. 15 in two CH-47 Chinooks and three UH-60 Blackhawks from Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras.

“Our initial focus was to bring immediate assistance to the citizens and provide a country team to assess the damage,” said COL Michael Wood, JTF-Bravo commander, who likened the situation to a paramedic unit stabilizing a patient before receiving long-term care. That support came in the form of the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment’s aircraft and crews.

“Our two Chinooks and three Blackhawks bring a heavy-lift capability that no one else can,” Wood said.

Pilots and crews used all of their skills to airlift supplies. In the Comasagua landing zone, CH-47 Chinook pilots had only a dusty soccer field available to them. As they closed in on the field, the sky around them turned into a dark shade of brown as the dust whirled around the aircraft.

“In a lot of these fields, you have a dust landing, and once you hit 20-feet you lose all reference and have to depend on the people in the back to keep it level until you find some rock on the ground to tell you how close you are to landing,” said CW3 John Hager, a pilot with Company B, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment.

He added that unlike other “brownout” landings, where the pilot can move ahead of the dust the pilots



Photos by SPC Jeremy Heckler

A CH-47 Chinook from Company B, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, lands in a cloud of dust at Comasagua. Pilots relied on their skills and their crews to get needed supplies to some of El Salvador's hardest hit areas.

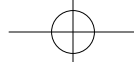
dead stop and flare up the nose of the aircraft in order to avoid obstacles around the LZ (landing zone). The flight crews had to deal with power lines surrounding the landing zone as well as steep hills and a soccer goalpost.

The efforts of the Chinook and Blackhawk crews threw a life preserver to the people of El Salvador, delivering 157.8 tons of food, ferrying 560 relief workers and soldiers, and reuniting citizens with their families in the towns of Comasagua, Talinque, San Vicente, Chiltuapa, Tacuba and Tamanque.

“It was very comforting to see that we were helping these people out in their time of need,” said SGT Robert Harper, flight engineer, Company B, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment. He said locals had no hospitals to go to or any way to get help. “They were really in a critical state, and they needed to get



SGT Robert Harper, Company B, 1-228th Aviation Regiment coordinates the unloading of a CH-47 Chinook with a Sal-



Commanders' Corner

Battalion Family Support Group eases separation

By MAJ Jim Walton
1st Bn., 228th Aviation Regiment

When soldiers are deployed away from family and friends, any assignment becomes that much more difficult. There are only so many things that commanders, supervisors and soldiers can do to improve the quality of life. However, when a soldier belongs to an organization that has a chain of command that cares about their morale and welfare, there must be a driving force behind it. In the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, that driving force is known as the Family Support Group (FSG).

The FSG is comprised of spouses, family members and friends back home who volunteer their time to support our soldiers and make our tours as pleasant as possible, thus easing the strain of separation.

The FSG plays an important role in the morale of all Winged Warriors. They provide many services that bring a little piece of home to Soto Cano. The most important thing they provide is a network to resolve issues back home. The FSG is unique in that its members are spread across the globe. The most common locations are at Army installations such as Fort Rucker, Fort Hood, Fort Campbell, Fort Bragg and Hunter Army Airfield, but also include installations in Mexico, Central Europe and Panama.

The FSG, headed by Cindy Ciluffo, wife of LTC Scott Ciluffo, commanding officer of the 1-228th, has been instrumental in enlisting company-level FSG coordinators to establish this global network of support. They function as a unit network of information, to assist displaced spouses in resolving day-to-day family problems, without needlessly involving the soldier-spouse, thus reducing stress at all levels.

The FSG network has proved invaluable, especially to younger spouses, who may be unfamiliar with Army intricacies.

Ciluffo has also developed a variety of mediums through which soldiers can communicate with family and friends back home. This network also allows FSG members to communicate with one another. These mediums include: monthly family support group newsletters; monthly real time, on-line chats through MyFamily.com; the unit web page; and video teleconferencing done during the holiday periods.

The online chat is conducted one Sunday evening a month, when the commanders, battalion staff, soldiers, FSG coordinators and family members can get together to discuss important topics. These topics usually include any upcoming events in the battalion, things that are going on at home and the battalion's charity projects.

The FSG also puts together a monthly

newsletter. Each month the the battalion commander and company commanders highlight what has happened in the unit since the previous newsletter.

The articles are then sent to Cindy Ciluffo who processes the information, formats the newsletter in color, and mails it back to us for distribution to family members.

A copy of each newsletter is also scanned and placed on the 1-228th home page for historical reference.

The newsletter and the online chats are not the end of what our FSG contributes.

The FSG also continues to send a variety of care packages to our soldiers, which include some of our favorite hard to get items such as: cookies, candies, cards and other items. Getting a care package is like getting Christmas presents year-round, which are subsequently shared throughout the battalion.

The FSG has also solicited support from state-side corporations (like BMG Music) who have donated CDs and movies for soldiers to enjoy.

During the holiday period, the FSG was responsible for soliciting donations and collecting a variety of toys, toothbrushes, shoes, clothing and other items

for the battalion-sponsored Honduran orphanage.

One of the greatest things about the FSG is that all members participate voluntarily. Although the Army requires each unit have a Family Support Group, there is no regulation, law or memorandum that says family members must give their time to improve the lives of our soldiers.

An active FSG completes the command structure of any successful unit, and allows the battalion to transcend the void of being forward deployed, away from our families and loved ones. There are no words that can express the appreciation the soldiers of this battalion feel toward the FSG, its giving members and all that they do.

The only thing we can say is "thank you."

Chaplain's Corner

What is the value put on human life?

By Chaplain (CPT) Arleigh vonSeggern
JTF-Bravo Chaplain

I am amazed watching the television how much death is shown. It is strange how movies and programs have people dying in so many bloody, graphic and unique ways on a regular basis. It leads one to think, how valuable is life? Or do we consider it important?

If the media is a "reflector" of our society, what are we saying about the value of life? Is it even valuable? We hear about Derek Humphry and his best-selling book, "Final Exit" or Jack "Dr Death" Kevorkian and his "Suicide Machine" creation and discover that he is not unique.

What we believe about life influences how we live our lives. If we come to the conclusion that life is useless, that it ends when we die, we will find that we have very little reason or encouragement to do well in this life or treat it highly. There would be lit-

Now, if we believe that life is valuable and precious, and that there is more to life than an existence upon this earth, we will take the time to enjoy it, and treat all life as precious. How would we know for certain?

Let me assure you, beyond any doubt, that we can know life is valuable. We were not present at creation, but God was, and his word records that he personally made man out of the dust of the earth and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. And add to this that we were made in his likeness. This does not apply to any other part of the creation.

The account also records our fall into sin, by which we all have been contaminated. But God did not just let us go and forget about us, but still loved us and cared for us. It was in this great love for us he sent his son Jesus to die, to pay the punishment we deserve because of our sin, and now, for his sake, grants us forgiveness.

God cared enough to send the very best! We are valuable! We have something to live for. If we are worth something in his eyes, may we then hold our

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EDITORIAL STAFF
JTF-Bravo Commander
COL Michael Wood

Public Affairs Director
1st Lt. Kim Garbett

Superintendent
Master Sgt. Patrick McKenna

Editor
SPC Jeremy Heckler

Photo technician
Martin Chahin

E-mail: pao@jtfb-emh1.army.mil

Website: <http://www.southcom.mil/home/jtfbravo>

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Content is edited, prepared and provided by the Joint Task Force-Bravo Public Affairs Office, in Building D-06. Telephone numbers are 011-504-234-4634, ext. 4150 or 4676. Fax is ext. 4550. or DSN 449-4150/4676. Readers with story ideas should call the Public Affairs office. All photographs are property of JTF-Bravo unless otherwise noted.

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NEWS

The Iguana

JTF-Bravo

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Texas medical team brings music to Hondurans' ears

By 1st Lt. Kim Garbett
Public Affairs

The sounds of birds in the morning outside one's hooch, the cracking of thunder during a storm, a gun going off in the distance, a newborn baby's cry ... what would this world be like if sounds and the ability to hear sounds were not a part of it? Hearing, one of the five human senses, is often taken for granted until one begins to lose it.

Medical care in Central America is extremely limited, and is even more severely curtailed by its cost in countries like Honduras. From Jan. 5 to 20, a 12-member team from the states specializing in ear and hearing problems cared for and evaluated more than 225 patients and performed 38 surgeries.

The odor of burning flesh, blood and antiseptic mingled together in the hot afternoon air Jan. 10. Situated in a small clinic in downtown San Pedro Sula, Honduras' industrial and economic capital city, the medical team out of Brook Army Medical Center (BAMC) in San Antonio, Texas, worked diligently among the antiquated equipment already in the clinic. The team also brought 4,200 pounds of highly sophisticated machines and equipment from the United States. Medical personnel out of Joint Task Force-Bravo's Medical Element (MEDEL) also participated in this specialty medical readiness training exercise (MEDRETE), which focused on a person's ears and hearing.

This specialty MEDRETE, said CPT Carolyn Richardson, project officer, is different than many others that MEDEL and medical teams from the United States participate.

"This MEDRETE was held in an urban hospital," she said. "It is much more common for the MEDRETEs we participate in to be located in the 'boondocks' and back-hill areas of Honduras and Central America, where medical care is a rare jewel."

At the same time, COL James Martin, JTF-Bravo's MEDEL commander, said that this specialty MEDRETE impacts the life of an individual to a greater degree than a general MEDRETE does. "General MEDRETEs consist of preventive medicine and acute



Photos by 1st Lt. Kim Garbett

A medical team from Brook Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, work to restore the hearing of a Honduran in San Pedro Sula. The medical personnel saw more than 225 patients and performed 38 surgeries from Jan. 5 to 20 to restore hearing and treat other ear problems for patients.

care, whereas the specialty MEDRETEs have greater impact on the lives of individuals."

Joint Task Force-Bravo Commander COL Michael Wood, on a site visit to the MEDRETE, agreed. "These specialty services are actually life-altering medical treatments for many of the patients who have the opportunity to receive care from our U.S. service men and women," he said.

Chronic ear inflammation problems and chronic infections for Hondurans often escape medical attention for years and become quite advanced. In some cases, Martin said, the care that was provided on this MEDRETE in San Pedro Sula will help patients to hear better. "It will also help to stop ear drainage. Long-term, these chronic infections can result in deafness," he said. "The infection can spread, causing vestibular problems like vertigo, nausea, dizziness and balance problems."

One of the patients the team from BAMC treated was a 20-year-old man named Roger Hernandez. For the past six to seven months, he said, he has had a perforated eardrum with a lot of secretions and drainage. Long-term, this could have potentially caused deafness for Hernandez. "I'm ecstatic that the docs have come from the United States to do this for us," Hernandez said. "My ears are much better now." Hernandez said that the doctors told him about the risks inherent with having the surgery, but he said he was confident the surgery would turn out well. Hernandez had just graduated from high school, so this ear surgery will definitely impact his life. "It's just better all around for school and work to be able to hear well and not have ear problems," he said.

Hernandez's mother, Dora Caberera, and sister were with him.

"It's (the surgery) the best thing that's happened to

Another patient, Rosa Aliberia, age 33, has had a perforated eardrum for about nine years. She said she was very grateful for the treatment. "The surgery went well and there was no pain," Aliberia said. "And now there is no fluid leaking from my ears. The doctors were also very nice and made me feel very comfortable throughout the entire process."

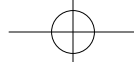
SSG Cecilio Herrera, translator and NCOIC for the San Pedro Sula MEDRETE, said that ear infections are a common problem in Honduras.

"Many don't get treatment for these infections, which later can become even bigger problems, like perforated eardrums," he said. "Many can not afford the medical care, or it is sometimes that there is inadequate medical treatment available in the area where they are living for their problems. We are very blessed in the United States to have such advanced and accessible medical care."

CPT Ken Yew, an anesthesiologist on the team from BAMC, said that this was a tremendous experience for him. "You begin to really realize how fortunate we are in the States when you work in conditions like this," he said. "We have to start everything from scratch here, including setting up the field equipment, which you don't normally have to do in the states. So it's really great training for us here. In addition, it's also tremendously fulfilling to help these people out. Many of them would likely never receive this kind of care otherwise. It significantly impacts their lives."

Richardson said that this MEDRETE showed her that "knowledge without the proper tools reduces one's effectiveness. There are worlds of difference between a man who has knowledge plus the right tools and the man who only has knowledge," she said. "The people here have been very grateful for the care and were kind,





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Quake

(Continued from Page 1)

aid quickly in the first days following the earthquake.”

Beyond the Band-Aid of initial relief efforts, assessment teams from JTF-Bravo arrived to determine the long-term needs of El Salvador. Engineering teams working with the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance analyzed the structural integrity of buildings throughout the country.

“Our engineering teams covered key parts of the country and provided technical assistance, saving a lot of time and effort,” Wood said.

“Our job was to identify the hardest hit areas,” said CPT Jennifer Newhouse, JTF-Bravo’s engineering team chief for the Task Force. “We found areas of the Pan American Highway and the cities of Usulután and Santa Tecla destroyed by landslides.”

Newhouse saw firsthand many of the effects of the earthquake on the people of El Salvador.

“Santa Tecla was the most unsettling to me; the town was completely devastated by a landslide, and as I walked through, I saw people digging bodies out of the ground,” Newhouse said.

In one area that the engineering team assessed, they inspected damage to buildings constructed by a New Horizons mission to the country.

“In Chilaquera, we landed to inspect New Horizons projects and found they had survived the earthquake rather well,” said Newhouse. “As we walked through the town, villagers came up to us and expressed their gratitude.”

She added that in another area, groups of El Salvadorans met them at the landing site and walked with them to the city and back — a four-mile journey.

Another crew conducted an equally important task, ferrying a crew of U. S. and Salvadoran geologists and scientists to the Santa Ana volcano. The team evaluated

the effects of the earthquake on the simmering volcano in order to avert an even greater tragedy. The aircrew came down to about 2,000 feet above the rim of the volcano, giving the geologists a bird’s eye view. After the flight, they determined that although the volcano was venting, it didn’t pose an immediate danger as initially thought.

“I wasn’t too worried about the volcano erupting, but I did worry about those living around the volcano,” said CW3 Dat Nguyen, Company A, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation pilot.

A three-person medical team from the Task Force’s Medical Element (MEDEL) arrived at Ilopango to assess the conditions of El Salvador’s hospitals.

A UH-60 Blackhawk belonging to Soto Cano’s U.S. Army Air Ambulance Detachment (USAAAD) evacuated a Salvadoran in Talinque after a supply drop. The crew was informed of a patient at a local clinic. A member of the crew examined her, and diagnosed that she suffered from appendicitis. The team evacuated her to Hospital Militar in San Salvador.

“I’m glad that we could be there, because right now most of those people in the mountains don’t have a way to let people know they are hurt. If we hadn’t been there,

she could have died because the facility lacked the equipment and the specialist required to treat her,” said SGT John Collins, flight medic.

Back at Ilopango, a crew of Army and Air Force helped keep the crews flying and on their task.

“Each service had their own role to play and everyone worked well together and came together as one effort,” said Tech Sgt. Doug Cooper, Joint Security Forces. “Without all of us pitching in, many Salvadorans would have gone without.”

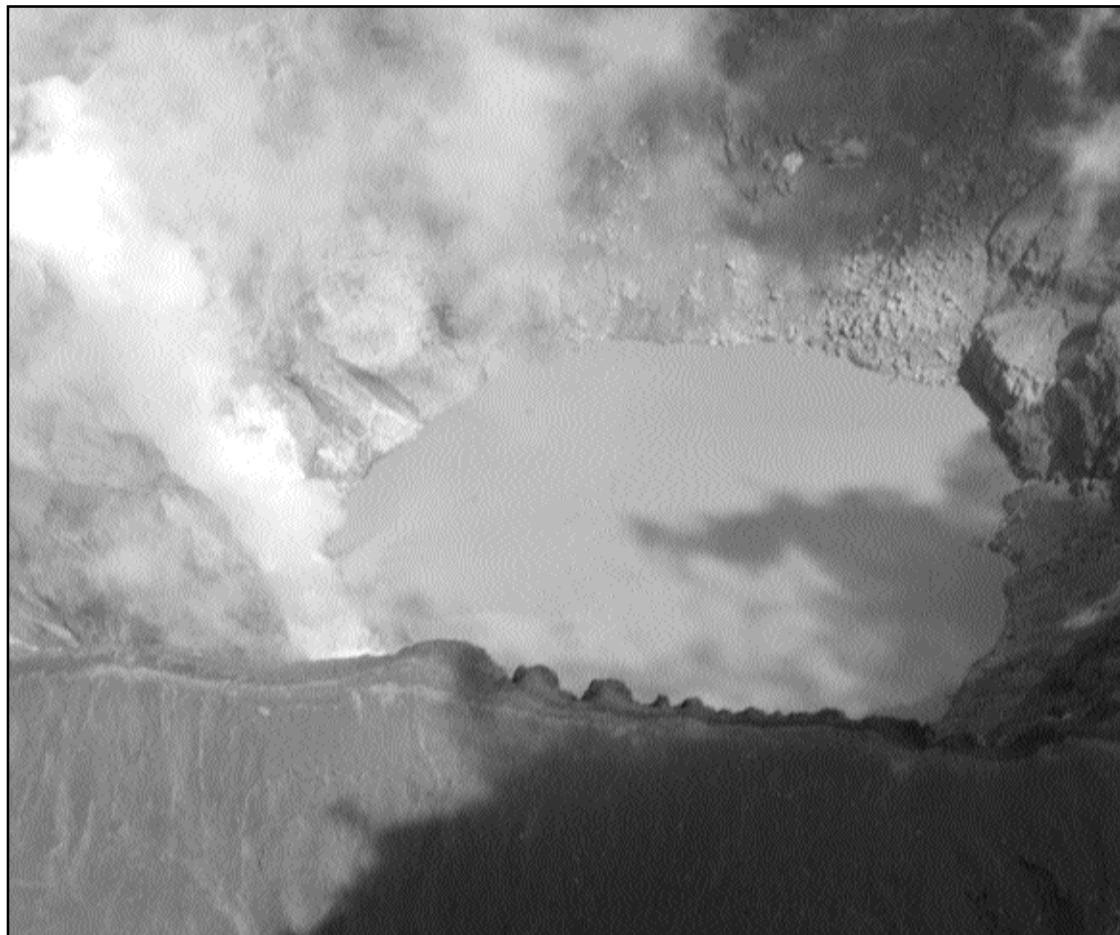
The members of Joint Task Force-Bravo returned to Soto Cano knowing they reunited families and helped the citizens of El Salvador get back on their feet.



A CH-47 Chinook lands at the Cavalry School to pick up food and other supplies. Crews from 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment delivered 157.8 tons and 506 passengers to El Salvador’s hardest hit areas.



CPT Matt Braman, commander of Company A, 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment, discusses possible landing sites with



Photos by SPC Jeremy Heckler

WHO LET THE DAWGS OUT

Soto Cano Air Base's fire department 'unleashed' on local brush fires

By Master Sgt. Pat McKenna
Public Affairs

Last week, Senior Master Sgt. Bob Jenkins, the base's fire chief, had to cancel training with Army helicopter pilots needing recertification on the "Bambi bucket," a device used to drop water on fires. The problem: a real-time fire.

But, in the end, things worked themselves out. The fire that Jenkins and his Air Force firefighters, known affectionately as the "fire dawgs," were dispatched to had wormed up the side of a mountain, terrain impossible to reach by land.

They needed help by air if they were going to douse the fire.

So they called in the Winged Warriors of the 1st Battalion, 228th Aviation Regiment. And so not only did the pilots get recertified after all, but they also put out a dangerous and destructive fire to boot.

For those pilots who missed the recertification, they'll get a few more chances over the next few months for a makeup. Honduras

is suffering through its highly combustible dry season improving the odds for a real-world mission.

The forest and brush surrounding Soto Cano and on the base is ready to burst into flames like charcoal briquettes soaked in gasoline. This isn't good news, since most of us live in hoochs made from untreated wood.

So, just for kicks, you might want to cut back on the beef-and-bean burritos at the DFAC, because any sort of flammable "emission" might spark a four-alarm inferno.

This frightening prospect doesn't deter the fire dawgs, who are equipped with protective equipment including special breathing apparatuses.

Night and day, the 43 military members and three civilians assigned to the Air Force's fire department stand ready to respond to any type of emergency on base and off. The department has signed a cooperative agreement with the nearby

assisted the town three times battling brush fires.

"Comayagua has limited resources to handle these emergencies," said Jenkins, Soto Cano Air Base's fire chief. "We have a large, highly trained team here, and we have new and well-maintained equipment."

The fire department's primary responsibility is to respond to fires and accidents on Soto Cano, especially inflight emergencies, and the department's agreement with Comayagua states as much.

According to the fire chief, however, the dawgs last responded to an inflight emergency in August.

"Inflights are very far and few between. Since I've been here, we've never said 'no' to Comayagua," Jenkins said.

In fact, the department recalls its off-duty personnel to man the station when they respond off base. The department has to maintain its minimal manning on base, just in case.

During the brush fire season, the fire department suspends its in-depth training and only conducts sessions that can be finished in a few days.

For many of the firefighters, they're learning plenty just combating the emergencies off base.

"A lot of the guys are coming from bases that have very few brush fires," Jenkins said. "We provide all the appropriate gear and tools. And we train them on the procedures of wild land fires. A lot of guys don't get that experience in the states. We have few fires on base, because of our fire prevention programs. Responding

off base gives them more opportunities to use the skills they've learned."

The fire chief anticipates that the dawgs will be chasing brush fires through the end of March, when the dry season dwindles. Until then, the dawgs will be in the thick of it.

"There's quite a bit of danger in these fires," Jenkins said. "Crown fires are particularly dangerous because they get into the tops of trees, and you'll have stuff falling on you. Then if the wind shifts, the fire can come around at you from the other side."

Despite the danger and despite the soot and smoke, the fire dawgs enjoy the busy brush fire season, said Jenkins.

"They'll be out fighting fires for four to five hours, and they'll come back hot and sweaty. But you'll see all of them with big smiles on their face," Jenkins said. "They're loving it. They're getting to do what they're trained to do and I haven't heard anybody complain yet."

"They'll be out fighting fires for four to five hours, and they'll come back hot and sweaty. But you'll see all of them with big smiles on their face."

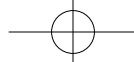
**Senior Master Sgt.
Bob Jenkins**
Soto Cano Fire Chief



Photos by Master Sgt. Pat McKenna

A UH-60 Blackhawk from Company A, 1-228th Aviation Regiment, drops water on a brush fire near Soto Cano.





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That's some quality H₂O

By Master Sgt. Pat McKenna
Public Affairs

The one bit of advice you usually get before leaving for Central America is "Don't drink the water!" And despite this being a glib phrase that people repeat mindlessly because they think they're comedians or something, it does have some basis in fact. You really shouldn't drink the water south of the border. Really.

Some foolishly forgo this warning and soon succumb to what medical professionals term "The Aztec Two-Step" or more scientifically speaking, "The Squirts."

Locals refer to the condition as "The Mayan Mud-slide," and, if left untreated, this ailment could ultimately lead to, well, I don't even want to think about it.

How do troops survive in the field when deployed to Central America? What alternatives are there when there is water, water everywhere, but not a drop to drink?

The U.S. military turns to a crack group of professionals in the 77W water treatment field that can turn sludge from New York's East River into sparkling, clear water.

There are four of these *agua* experts on Soto Cano, led by SGT Ronnie Williams, whose title, appropriately enough, is NCO in Charge of Water. Williams makes Bobby Boucher, The Waterboy, look all wet.

Twice a month, Williams and his water warriors stream over to nearby La Paz to test their equipment, and in particular, put one of their two ROWPUs (short for Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit) through its paces. ROWPUs can pump out up to 600 gallons of clean, potable water per hour.

"We can purify just about any water source—fresh, brackish and even salt water," Williams said. "About the only water we can't purify is from the Red Sea and



Photo by Master Sgt. Pat McKenna

SGT. Ronnie Williams, NCOIC, Water, helps crosstrain riggers and fuels personnel in the Headquarters and Supply Company so they can operate the base's ROWPU equipment.

Dead Sea. I've heard they've got so much salt in them that you can walk on them."

The post's water brigade makes frequent dry runs, make that wet runs, of their equipment to ensure they are in working order if disaster strikes.

"We've got to be ready to go anywhere in Central America to do the mission," Williams said. "Potentially, we could've gotten the call to go on the earthquake mission in El Salvador. You don't want to find out that something isn't working when you're deploying."

According to Williams, Joint Task Force-Bravo used ROWPUs in Venezuela in December 1999 after floods swept through that country and also in Honduras, after Hurricane Mitch killed thousands.

A river in La Paz is the perfect test bed for Williams' semimonthly tests. Oily slicks float on the surface of

the murky brownish-green liquid. It's a body of water that you wouldn't want to drink. Locals use the river as a combination laundromat/sewer/bathtub.

"There's a lot of crap in the water, literally," Williams said. "It takes a load of chlorine to get it up to Army standards."

So will Williams drink his own water?

Of course, he swears by it!

"Any water I purify, I'll drink," Williams said. "If I don't have enough confidence to drink my own water, how am I going to let other people drink it? Our water is purer than the bottled water you can buy here. I know because I tested it."

So Forget Perrier! Dump that Aguazul! And flush all your Evian down the toilet! Start sipping Williams' special — Soto Cano Springs!

Malaria is dangerous but preventable disease

By SGT Delfino Liban &
SPC Cassandra Julien
MEDEL

"I don't take my weekly malaria pill because it gives me diarrhea. I don't like taking pills, there's no malaria on Soto Cano Air Base, and I'm not going to be here long enough to get malaria."

These responses and others are all too familiar to members of the preventive medicine services of Joint Task Force-Bravo Medical Element. Malaria is a real threat to the health of the U.S. Forces operating in Honduras including Soto Cano Air Base. Last year, the National Honduran Ministry of Health reported thousands cases of malaria. In the Department of Comayagua, more than 500 cases were reported.

There are four human malarias; all cause similar symptoms in victims. In Honduras, the two most common types found are vivax and falciparim malaria

common of the two.

Individuals with vivax malaria may initially experience a general rundown feeling followed by a shaking chill and a rapid rising temperature, usually accompanied by headache and nausea, ending with profuse sweating. This cycle of illness may last from a week up to a month or longer.

In untreated cases, relapses occur at irregular intervals for up to two to five years, and malaria infections have been known to persist for as many as 50 years. Falciparim malaria is much more rare but is far more serious of the two infections.

Falciparim malaria, similar to vivax, causes chills, fever, sweats and headache but will progress if untreated to jaundice (yellow appearance of the skin), blood coagulation defects, shock, kidney and liver failure, brain damage, and coma. Prompt treatment is essential even in mild cases, since irreversible complications may appear suddenly

the use of malaria prophylaxis tablets. Malaria prophylaxis tablets contain the drug chloroquine with the usual dose of one 500 mg tablet taken by mouth weekly. However, this drug may only suppress the symptoms of malaria should a person be bitten by an infected mosquito.

The drug chloroquine will not eliminate vivax malaria parasites, which are located in the liver. For this purpose soldiers and airmen should ensure they are provided with a second drug before they return to CONUS to kill possible liver parasites and must be taken weekly after leaving Honduras for eight straight weeks. They are available during out-processing. Troops can also take measures of protecting themselves without medication.

The rainy season in Honduras begins in May and usually ends in November. Although rates of infection are greater during this period, new cases are identified year round. After a heavy rainstorm, standing water provides a breed-

counter the threat, Dyncorp provides community treatment for both larval and adult mosquitoes. Even with treatment, the job of controlling these insects is formidable.

Everyone can do their part to protect themselves from malaria. Mosquitos tend to bite at night. Nightly spraying of living and sleeping quarters screens with an aerosol preparation of pyrethrum or other insecticides are helpful in controlling mosquitoes in hooches. Maintaining screens in doorways and windows helps prevent nighttime biting.

When out at night, sleeves should be rolled down and with the appropriate repellent put exposed skin. The most effective is DEET.

Temporary or permanent uniform applications of permethrin, an effective insect repellent, are available through preventive medicine.

Malaria is a preventable disease and malaria prophylaxis is an individual and a command responsibility. Take

FEATURES

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Jail and Bail: No one can escape long arm of law



Photos by 1st Lt. Kim Garbett

Gunner Sgt. Kevin Ballentine handcuffs Staff Sgt. Melissa Melger during the Jail and Bail. Joint Security Forces arrested civilian and military members on Soto Cano to raise money for local orphanages.

By 1st Lt. Kim Garbett
Public Affairs

"What?!! Why am I being arrested and what for?!!!" More than 200 civilian and military members had warrants out for their arrests on Jan. 11, for various crimes allegedly committed here at Soto Cano. Joint Security Forces arrested everyone from the Joint Task Force-Bravo commander, COL Michael Wood, to the lowest ranking enlisted person on base. No one was immune.

Suspects were charged with a variety of crimes which included: obstruction of justice, reckless endangerment of a vehicle, running the mouth, cussing profusely in front of minors, interrupting at inappropriate times, gambling, and impersonating an officer, among a long laundry list of other very creative, articulate and fake charges. But what were these arrests, trials and jail sentences really all about anyway?

Soto Cano's Joint Security Forces Community Outreach Organization sponsored its first-ever fundraiser on Jan. 11, affectionately referred to as the "Jail and Bail." The Jail and Bail was hosted while the JSF contingency of Marines was here on a four month TDY, augmenting Soto Cano's security. The Marines' mentality and their *'je ne sais quoi'* added a bit more gung-ho appeal to the entire extravaganza. The bribery rates for throwing someone in the cantonment facility on fake charges, otherwise known as the motor pool near the contracting parking lot, was rather reasonable. Be it your boss, your friend, enemy or coworker, you could send them to the brig for \$5 for half an hour, \$10 for an hour, and so on, depending on how much you really loved or hated that individual. The fundraiser profits were to go toward benefiting the ARFOR and AFFOR orphanages. Warrants for arrests were filled out at the JSF desk, and many accusers chose to remain anonymous for fear of retribution, and in many cases, this fear was justified.

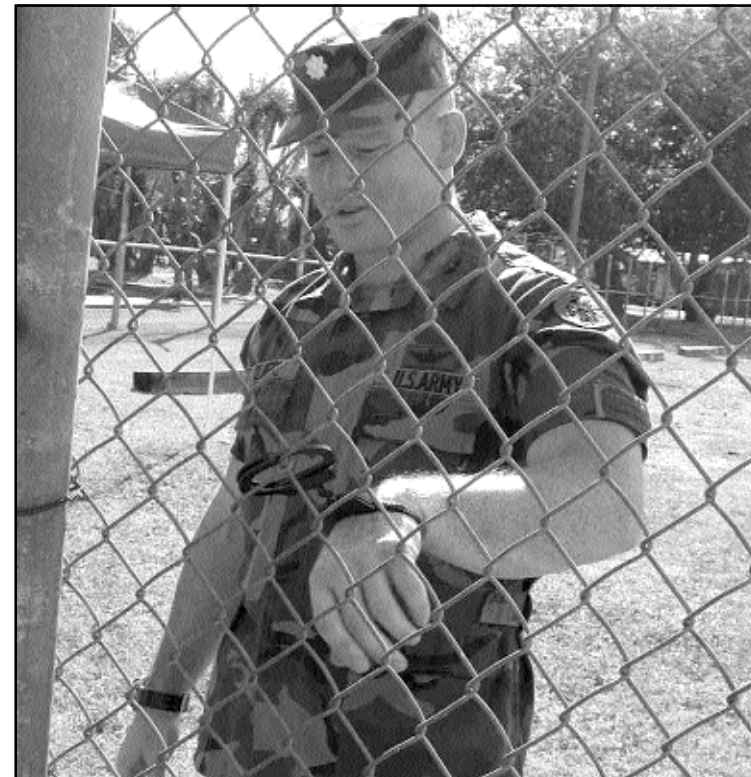
Technical Sgt. Jeff McNeil of JSF spearheaded the entire event along with Marine Gunner Sgt. Kevin

"Who had me arrested and what for?" "Paybacks suck" was the attitude of many of those being thrown in the slammer for some unjust cause or other by an unknown accuser.

A few of the more well-known and notorious "criminals" were thrown in the slammer this glorious head-hunting, handcuffing kind of day. Prisoner (COL) Wood was anonymously accused of a Honduran-United States scandal cover-up as well as bribing the referees at the Turkey Bowl in November so that the Army would win the game. Prisoner (CSM) Fisher was accused of smuggling exotic insects out of country and animal cruelty.

Handcuffed by a JSF patrol, Prisoner Wood was marched before Judge Spike. He pled innocent for reasons of insanity, saying it was all lies. "You all drive me nuts here!" he jokingly retorted to the judge.

Grumpy prisoners who couldn't post the bail that the judge hammered them with attempted elaborate escape plans over the barbed wire around the cantonment facility. Prisoners had their time spent in the slammer increased unceremoniously by the unforgiving Judge Wapner or Judge Judy for mouthing back to the judges during their trials. Those who resisted arrest or tried to evade being arrested were not looked on too kindly by



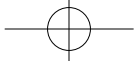
LTC Scott Ciluffo, commanding officer 1-228th Avn. Reg., is handcuffed to the fence for getting rowdy while being imprisoned.

pressions of those being handcuffed made it challenging work for the JSF patrols to keep a straight face as they read the prisoners their rights. Overall, however, McNeil said that the first-ever Jail and Bail at Soto Cano was a major success, raising more than \$1,000 for the AFFOR and ARFOR orphanages.

"The orphanages were extremely grateful for the generous donations," McNeil said. "We would like to thank everyone that participated in this event that made it such a success and for the good humor that everyone had during this fundraising expedition. We hope everyone had as much fun as we did. It was just hard to keep up with all the arrest warrants coming in. I think we needed more cops that day!"



Gunner Sgt. Kevin Ballentine takes the accused to judge Staff Sgt. Tina Frame



Power Outage

All appointments for off-duty Akamai Workshops on degree completion, CLEP televideos and other multimedia modules at the Education Center on Feb. 3 are cancelled due to an all-day power outage. JSF and aviation night workers will not be able to reschedule for evenings.

ESL Program

The Soto Cano Air Base Education Center will begin an English as a Second Language Program in the Spring 2001 in response to requests for ESL support. However, since changing "needs" should drive the proverbial Training Train, the ESL program is being written here and packaged from multimedia sources to include English grammar books, CD-ROM, etc. Videos are studied, and a pretest given in Akamai Workshops on and off duty hours. Regulations prohibit Ed Officers from loaning out or "burning copies" of any copyrighted CD-ROM, software, televideos or cassettes. Even the ESO must get DOIM/J6 and Contracting Officers' permission to purchase and/or burn copies. For more information, call ext 4420.

PlayStation 2 Drawing

To ensure that all AAFES customers have an equal opportunity to purchase a PlayStation 2, customer drawings will be held for the opportunity to purchase a system. Customers must fill out a form with their name and phone number with one entry per authorized customer. Drawings will be held on Feb. 7, 14 and 21 for the opportunity to buy a PlayStation 2. The winners will be announced on the Power Lizard between 8 and 10 a.m.

Weightlifting Tourney

Soto Cano will be holding a weightlifting competition Feb. 10 at 11a.m. at the base gym. The competition is open to all Soto Cano personnel (military and civilian). The last day to sign up for the competition is Feb. 8. For more information, contact Eduardo Castillo at ext. 4268.

African American History Month

Celebration of African-American History Month kicks off with an African-Caribbean dance group, Dansa Garfuna. They will perform at 11:30 a.m. Feb. 8 at the Dining Facility.

Tax Assistance Service

The Command Judge Advocate's Office will be offering Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Services for servicemembers beginning Feb. 12 on an appointment basis. For more information, call ext 4546

Task Force Lempira gears up

New Horizons 2001 Honduras kicked off as active duty, reserve and National Guard personnel from around the world travelled to Gracias, Lempira, to set up a base camp. The mission of Joint Task Force-Lempira is to build four three-room schools with latrines and three two-room clinics in Gracias, Lempira. The mission is scheduled to last until May.

-Photo by 1st Lt. Kim Garbett



Commentary

How to spend \$12 million in a year

By CPT Tom Davies
Resource Management

What if, like in the movie "Brewster's Millions," someone told you that they would give you \$12 million if you could spend it in a year? It would seem like the sky was the limit for what you could buy. Most of your favorite pro athletes don't even have contracts that sweet. Believe it or not, this is roughly the amount of money that Congress appropriated for the operations of Joint Task Force-Bravo this year.

In the military, it is easy to forget that all of our equipment, training and supplies are paid for by the taxes of the American people. However, everything does have a price. From the fuel we put into our vehicles to the furniture in our hooches to the electricity

that powers our lights - it all must be accounted for in the JTF-Bravo budget. Some examples of the costs budgeted by JTF-Bravo for the 2001 fiscal year are:

- Electric power generation - \$1,904,000
- Repair and upkeep of facilities - \$800,000
- Fuel (diesel and MOGAS) - \$675,500
- GSA vehicle leases - \$468,000
- Vehicle maintenance - \$460,000
- MWR supplies - \$117,000
- Self-service supply center - \$100,000

When all of the requirements for JTF-Bravo are added up, the sum comes to roughly \$20 million; about \$8 million more than we are given from Congress to do our mission. Rarely do units actually get the full

amount of money that will fund their entire mission. So in the budget office, we help the commander figure out what JTF-Bravo's most important expenses are and then stretch our dollars to do as much as we can while still maintaining our budget.

An important duty of every person at Soto Cano is to conserve resources whenever they can. Things as simple as turning off the lights and air conditioner when you leave an area or taking proper care of the property you are signed for can result in money being available for other requirements that might otherwise never get funded. Being conscious that everything does have a price can be the contribution that everyone gives to improving the quality of life on Soto Cano.

Twelve million dollars is barely enough to keep our mission going, so spend your portion wisely.



Saturday, Feb. 3, 4 p.m.
Dungeons & Dragons
(PG-13)

Sunday, Feb. 4, 4 p.m.
Bounce (PG-13)

Saturday, Feb. 3, 7:15 p.m.
Unbreakable (PG-13)

Sunday, Feb. 4, 7:15 p.m.
Proof of Life (R)

Bowling in Tegucigalpa
Feb. 25
Certification in Utila
Feb. 2 to 5, 9 to 12, 16 to 19 23 to 26
Copan Ruins
Feb. 9 to 11, 16 to 18
La Ceiba Beach

Roatan Islands
Feb. 2 to 5, 9 to 12, 16 to 19, 23 to 26
San Pedro Sula
Feb. 16 to 18
Valley of Angels
Feb. 4, 18
Copan Ruins

Cigar Factory Trip
Feb. 10
Historical Comayagua
Feb. 17
Villa Elena Golf Course
Feb. 3, 10, 17, 24
Lake Yojoa